

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

--An image forming apparatus has an image bearing ~~means~~ unit for bearing a toner image, a transfer ~~means~~ device for transferring the toner image on the image bearing ~~means~~ unit onto a sheet, fixing ~~means~~ unit for fixing to the sheet the toner image, and first and second sheet transport guides disposed along a transport path. A sheet transport speed in the fixing ~~means~~ unit is set lower than a sheet transport speed in the transfer device ~~means~~. The first and second sheet transport guides are each disposed with a tilt with respect to a horizontal or vertical direction. A gap is provided to form a spacing sufficient to permit curves of the sheet to be formed between a downstream-side end portion of the first sheet transport guide and an upstream-side end portion of the second sheet transport guide.--